



EDITORIAL

Introducing the International Journal of Surgery

The field of surgery has endured rapid subspecialisation over the past 40 years as our knowledge and understanding has grown. Surgical journals have followed suit and thus the knowledge base has become increasingly fragmented within a series of closed academic publishing loops. As a result, concepts and discoveries of a generic surgical value often do not diffuse into the wider surgical community, despite the obvious potential benefits of 'knowledge transfer'. Indeed, many areas of research have a cross-specialty importance, such as wound healing, infection, the physiological and metabolic responses to trauma, surgical training and errors. Physicians have not been subject to the same degree of change, in addition, journals such as the Lancet, NEJM, JAMA and the BMJ provide a multidisciplinary output of general medical knowledge.

We understand that subspecialisation brings benefits for a rapidly expanding knowledge base and especially for a craft specialty like surgery. In addition, we encourage surgeons to read journals dedicated to their specific area of practice. However, we firmly believe that surgeons should not lose their link to the broader surgical knowledge base, in this way we aim to facilitate knowledge and technology transfer as well as the process of innovation across all surgical and allied specialties.

The IJS's mission is to play a key role in the global advancement of surgical research, education and clinical practice. Surgical advances are occurring at numerous levels, from molecular to epidemiological and we encourage submissions from across the entire spectrum. Our mission is

intrinsically global and multidisciplinary and thus we aim to publish content to the widest audience for the purpose of informing and reforming the international surgical community.

As authors and contributors ourselves, we understand how frustratingly slow the 'submission to decision' time can be, our aim is to provide decisions on 90% of submissions within 4 weeks. In addition, articles can appear online as early as 7 weeks after being accepted. As readers of journals, we also know how tedious it can be to wade through a collection of dry reviews albeit on important topics. As editors, we aim to provide an eclectic mix of contents in each issue, with each article maintaining the right balance of scope, depth and brevity and images being printed in full colour.

With our global mission comes great responsibility, to this end we will ensure that articles are peer-reviewed to the highest possible standards. Our Statistical Editors will ensure a high degree of scrutiny for original research papers and every submission via our electronic system requires an ethical statement. Our Executive Committee and Editorial Board consist of respected members of the international scientific and surgical communities, who aim to play an active role in the journals continued development. Finally, we hope that you enjoy this issue and we would welcome any feedback that you may wish to give, please e-mail: editor@journal-surgery.com.

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Founder and Managing Editor